

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: April 12, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-142)

TO: Mickey Carter
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects – Goddard Habitat Project, Streambank

Project No: 1994-017-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement, 1.10 Structural Bank Protection Using Engineered Structures

Location: Lemhi County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a streambank stabilization project with the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District on the Lemhi River in Lemhi County, Idaho. This project will involve a combination of natural rock and tree revetment placement to protect an eroding bank, and ultimately to prevent two irrigation canals from being eroded into the river. Approximately 270 feet of riprap will be used to armor the right bank. Woody plantings native to the location will be incorporated into the riprap during construction. Existing large woody debris will be undisturbed to preserve instream pool habitat. Sloping of the bank will be necessary to place the rock since currently the area has a vertical bank. An excavator will be used to grade the slope and a thumb-equipped excavator will place the rock.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Allen Bradbury with the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District (April 1, 2004) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area include gray wolf, Canada lynx, bald eagle, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead trout, and Columbia River Basin bull trout. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers took the lead on ESA Section 7 consultation for the Goddard Habitat Project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a letter of concurrence for this project on March 16, 2004. USFWS concluded that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect bull trout and bald eagle and will have no effect on Canada lynx. NOAA Fisheries issued a letter of concurrence for this project on July 29, 2002. NOAA Fisheries concluded that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect chinook salmon or steelhead trout and will not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat. The Goddard Habitat Project should be implemented in accordance with the above referenced ESA Section 7 consultations. Consultation should be reinitiated with USFWS and NOAA Fisheries if new information becomes available or if circumstances occur that may affect listed species, designated critical habitat or Essential Fish Habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered.

Requirements associated with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act were handled by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, in cooperation with staff from the U.S. Forest Service (Boise National Forest), under their existing Programmatic Agreement with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office. A description of the Goddard Habitat Project and site information was reviewed by a qualified archaeologist and it was determined that no further cultural resource consultation would be required (response dated May 6, 2002). In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, an archaeologist should be notified immediately and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices should be followed during the implementation of the Goddard Habitat Project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Goddard Habitat Project. This project was coordinated through the Upper Salmon Basin Technical Team composed of representatives from USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, Shoshone Bannock Tribe, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Water Resources, and Natural Resource Conservation Service. In addition, Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District and the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project hold monthly meetings that are open to the public in which this project was discussed.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon C. Stewart

Shannon C. Stewart

Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: April 13, 2004

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

USFWS Letter of Concurrence March 16, 2004

NOAA Fisheries Letter of Concurrence July 29, 2002

Boise National Forest Cultural Resource Response May 6, 2002

cc: (w/o attachments)

Mr. Allen Bradbury – Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District